

STRENGTHENING STAKEHOLDERS' COLLABORATION TO EXPAND CIVIC SPACE IN WEST AFRICA



Date: 18-20 September 2019

Venue: Ampomaah Hotel, Accra, Ghana





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BACKGROUND

The West Africa Civil Society Institute (WACSI) and the Fund for Global Human Rights (FGHR) recognised that it is imperative for networks of influence within civil society (organised¹ and organic²) to be harnessed and supported to respond effectively to growing threats to civic freedoms.

Observably, despite the growing numbers and influence of activists and social movements in West Africa on the one hand, coupled with a high number of existing social justice organisations on the other hand, the collaboration between these two groups is weak. This results to a significantly low level of pressure on the perpetrators of injustice (most often the government), and this often weakens the possibility of realising successful social justice campaigns. It is within this context that WACSI and the Fund for Global Human Rights (FGHR) have conceptualised an initiative to explore whether the existing types of promoters of social justice see the need to join forces in their efforts to push for social justice in West Africa. They seek to promote a shared learning space for activists' social movements and social justice organisations to explore ways of effectively responding to the crackdown on civic freedoms and restrictions to civic engagements in West Africa.

With space for social justice activism of all types and causes under threat globally and regionally, visibly affecting the partners of WACSI and FGHR, the two organisations initiated a process to enable social justice groups (organised and organic) to analyse the context in which they are mobilising/working, assess the strengths and weaknesses and share learning on their respective approaches, and explore the potential/need, opportunities, challenges and means to collaborate effectively in responding to the crackdown on civil society in West Africa.

The first step in this process centred around a three-day convening with twenty representatives from traditional CSOs that promote social justice in diverse fields across the anglophone and francophone countries of West Africa³. The aims of this initial stage were to:

- Develop a desk-based analysis and questions on the state of collaboration between organised and organic civil society in West Africa in resistance to the crackdown of open civic space

¹ Organised civil society consists of traditional civil society organisations and social justice organisations.

² Organic civil society consists of activists and social movements.

³ Five participants were nominated by FGHR, five by WACSI and ten from key regional networks supporting formalized CSOs across the region (WAHRDN - West Africa Human Rights Defenders Network; REPOAC - Network of West and Central African NGO National Platforms; REPONGAC - Network of National NGO Platforms from Central Africa; WACSOF-CI - West Africa Civil Society Forum-Cote D'Ivoire; and Africans Rising).

- Support formalised CSOs to discuss emerging issues pertaining to the crackdown on civic space and how
- they collaborate with independent activists and social movements in this context
- Document and share these reflections from formalised CSOs
- In post-convening follow-up, support their engagement with activists and social movements, to understand their analysis of the challenges and opportunities and their interest in joining together to define common goals, approaches and actions.

KEY REFLECTIONS DAY 1

Opening Remarks

In his opening remarks, Jimm Chick Fomunjong, Head of Knowledge Management Unit, WACSI, acknowledged the growing threats to civic space in West Africa, illustrated by developments in Ghana, Cameroon and Benin. He listed the key areas that should serve as the backdrop of this convening:

- The need for CSOs, activists and social movements to see one another as development partners rather than as competitors in the civic space.
- WACSI willingness and openness to collaborate with other CSOs, activists and social movements to expand civic space.
- The need for participants to explore existing collaboration mechanisms and strategies they use as organisations or within their respective networks.
- How open and enabling these mechanisms and strategies are in integrating activists and social movements and other vital partners working to expand civic space.

John Kabia, Program Officer at the Fund for Global Human Rights (FGHR), explained that FGHR's interest in working with WACSI stemmed from a shared goal to create an enabling environment for civil society. He set this in the context of the history and formation of FGHR which was established to provide core, flexible, long-term funding and technical assistance to front line CSOs and activists pursuing human rights and social justice. He then went on to express his profound interest in the convening and his wish that it will be one of many to come.

SESSION 1

Civic space trends in West Africa by Charles Vandyck

Charles Vandyck, Head, Capacity Development unit of WACSI began his presentation by giving a brief introduction to civic space as a term, including its definition and its dimensions. He defined civic space as “Set of conditions that determine the extent to which all members of society (individuals and in informal or organised groups) can freely, effectively and without discrimination exercise their basic civil rights”. He then gave a detailed presentation on the state of Africa’s civic space. He explained that, according to a typology created by CIVICUS, the different categories of civic space are open, narrowed, obstructed, repressed and closed and that only 4% of people in this world live in countries with open civic space.

He highlighted the fact that the majority (72,1%) of countries in West Africa have an obstructed civic space, showing that the region is facing a serious challenge to civic freedoms. Some cases in point being the recent anglo-phone crisis in Cameroon and the killings of some journalists in Ghana. In many cases, the obstruction of civic space manifests in the following ways:

- The passage of restrictive laws which in turn restrict funding, registration and increase surveillance on the operations of civil society
- Digital and internet restrictions which affects press freedom, censorship and intimidation
- The infiltration of civic space by government funded CSOs which may cause an unfair competition for funds; among others.

Mr Vandyck listed some possible solutions to these problems including:

- Building the digital skills and legal capacity of the citizens at the grassroots level by making them aware of their rights to enable them to effectively address human rights violations
- Increasing access to legal aid, research support and capacity to analyse restrictive laws
- Evaluating triggers and root causes of closing civic space on a country-by-country basis
- Growing the public support base for civil society
- Fostering meaningful and greater citizen participation and governmental accountability and transparency
- Supporting citizen movements and
- Engaging with private sector organisations.

To prove the effectiveness of these suggested solutions, the facilitator cited examples in countries like Ghana, Nigeria and Mali who have had success stories in the fight against the repression of civic space. In Nigeria, on the 3 November 2017, the Human Rights Agenda Network (HRAN) comprising 23 NGOs filed a suit at the Federal High Court in Abuja seeking the court to declare unconstitutional and unlawful the NGO Regulation Bill. In Mali in June 2017, the “Do not Touch my Constitution” campaign successfully forced the government to backtrack and suspend a planned referendum which could have expanded the powers of the President. In Niger, activists took the issue of Areva mining’s impacts to Europe, where real political leverage is located. In response to this and other civic probes and campaigns, the French government in 2017 adopted a ‘Duty of Care’ law to curb corporate abuses. In Ghana in 2016, Occupy Ghana, Media Foundation for West Africa (MFWA), Ghana’s Center for Democratic Development (CDD) etc., scuttled the efforts of the government to introduce the Interception of Postal Packets and Telecommunication Messages Bill popularly known as the spy bill.

During the question and answer section, participants expressed concern on the data collection methods of WACSI’s monthly Situation Report (SITREP) and the data of the civic space monitor which served as a data source on the state of civic space in West Africa. They worried that since most of the data for these platforms were gathered online, the data may not necessarily be objective and accurate. They were however reassured that data is gathered from credible sources like local media and human rights organisations or via the civic space monitor¹ that provides factual and up-to-date information.

Participants also wanted to know how to draw the line between activism and politics. To this enquiry, Mr Vandyck explained that civil society work is interspersed with politics and that it will be difficult to separate the two. Civil society organisations should however strive to avoid partisan politics as this can cause a conflict of interest.

¹ See CIVICUS Monitor: <https://monitor.civicus.org/>

SESSION 2

Presentation of research findings – Forging Stakeholder Collaboration for Effective Social Activism in West Africa: Prospects, Perils and Enabling Factors by Dr Albert Arhin

This presentation by Dr Albert Arhin of the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), focused on the findings of a desk study conducted on the perils, prospects and enabling factors that foster stakeholder collaboration for effective social activism in West Africa.

Through literature review, the study found scanty data on the state of collaboration between Traditional Social Justice Organisations (TSJOs), Social Movements (SMs) and Social Activists (SAs) in the context of West Africa's shrinking civic space. Dr Arhin went on to explain that West Africa's shrinking civic space may shift power from civic actors to political actors and slow down the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which will lead to less government accountability and the

denial of human rights.

Though he stated that data on collaboration between civil society groups and activists was limited, he maintained that such collaboration was a solution to the problem of shrinking civic space in Africa by increasing the collective voice of civil society actors and strengthening their credibility as the joint effort will enable knowledge and experience sharing among these groups.

Dr Arhin admitted that forging collaborations will not be easy. Civil society groups looking to collaborate were likely to face problems caused by ideological differences, limited resources, mistrust among one another and several other challenges. Still, he explained that, all this could be overcome by focusing on shared social justice interests, a willingness to learn from one another, and a quest to be legitimate and visible.

Dr Arhin then divided participants into groups to collectively find answers to some key questions. The following were their responses to the questions:

Questions	Participants' Responses
1. What is a TSJO?	Groups that meet legal requirements to pursue long-term systematic issues by carrying out research to learn about issues and engage with stakeholders.
2. Who is an activist?	Any individual who fights for social justice.
3. What is a social movement?	A spontaneous mass movement to achieve a common goal.
4. What issues should have been further explored by this research?	Details on the nature of social movements. The leadership conflicts happening between actors of social movements and TSJOs.
5. What measures/actions should TSJOs put in place to improve their collaboration with SMs and activists?	TSJOs should accept the existence of social movements and provide a complementary support to them. TSJOs must continue the work of social movements once the movements end.

DAY 2 SESSION 3

Field experiences on stakeholder collaboration facilitated by Jimm Chick Fomunjong

The session began with a group exercise in which participants were asked to share their experiences working within civic space. Their responses are summarised below:

Questions	Participants Response
1. From our experience as TSJOs working with activists and in/with social movements in defending or expanding civic space:	
• What are some of the successes we have achieved?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Providing focused capacity development support to SMs.• Coordinated grassroots actions that enabled greater impact of movements.• Mobilisation of mass influence and synchronisation of action.• Collaborations between SAs, SMs and TSJOs increased the social impact of the joint action.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What factors contributed to these successes? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A shared interest in a particular cause facilitated collaboration. • Strong dialogue and understanding of the issue that need to be addressed. • Adaptation of local realities. • Inclusive participation of members of the different groups dispelled animosity and promoted trust. • The combination of resources (financial and technical) of the different groups facilitated collaboration and amplified impact.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What challenges did we encounter? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Though the different groups were fighting for the same cause, differences in individual and organisational interests created conflict that bred mistrust. • Different approaches to problem-solving and advocacy as well different cultural backgrounds created conflict. • Leadership issues as leaders of social movements and traditional social justice organisations may have issues at collaborating and understanding each other; • Sustainability issues as most social movements are spontaneous are not surviving after the problem has been solved; • Cultural sensitivities and bias in advocacy approach as some leaders of TSJOs have a more organised and structural approach to advocacy while others are more willing to go for spontaneous and mass mobilisation advocacy; • Partisan challenges when there is an alignment with some political parties; • Lack of experience of some activists in terms of nonviolent mobilisation techniques, judicial expertise etc.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What factors contributed to these challenges? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ideological differences. • High level of vulnerability to government influence. • Lack of financial resources. • Lack of civic culture. • Task scheduling problems.

SESSION 4

Case study 1

Case Studies: experience sharing, cross fertilisation of ideas.

Cameroon: Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Africa by Ekole Basil Najembe and Jimm Chick

Mr Najembe began this session with a brief history of the origin of the anglophone crisis in Cameroon and the state of the nation currently. He continued that there has been some collaboration between TSJOs and Community-Based Organisations (CBOs) in Cameroon. Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Africa (CHRDA) is also working on partnering with Open Society Initiative in West Africa (OSIWA), though they may face opposition from the government.

There are also collaborations with other grassroots organisations that are fighting to protect the civic space of Cameroon that is constantly under attack from the government. These collaborations have amplified the voice of these organisations and provided some of them with

financial support.

CHRDA has notably collaborated through online mobilisation, with Kah Walla's political and civic movement and the Coffin Revolution to stand in solidarity against the violation of the rights of journalists, lawyers and so on. These collaborations raised international awareness to the gravity of the anglophone crisis.

However, pressure from the government has led to the dissolution of some of these SMs and TSJOs. The others that persisted have also been forced to change their thematic areas to ones that will not attract the displeasure of the government. So far, the only TSJO that has continued with its mandate despite oppression from the government is CHRDA.

These results show that there is a need to increase the collaboration of civil society actors in Cameroon¹ and so

¹ The Anglophone Crisis (French: Crise anglophone), is a conflict in the Southern Cameroons region of Cameroon, part of the long-standing Anglophone problem. In September 2017, separatists in the Anglophone territories of Northwest Region and Southwest Region declared the independence of Ambazonia and began fighting against the Government of Cameroon. Starting as a low-scale insurgency, the conflict spread to most parts of the Anglophone regions within a year. As of the summer of 2019, the government controls the major cities and parts of the countryside, while the separatists hold parts of the countryside and regularly appear in the major cities.

more efforts should be put into forging such collaborations. Reversing the trend of shrinking civic space in West Africa requires committed actions and cooperation between local and global civil society actors, citizens, governments, multinational institutions, research institutes and universities, businesses, and others. Solidarity among partners must go beyond programmes implementation. Meaningful partnership will require concerted action whenever the rights of one partner are violated.

SESSION 5 Case Study 2

State of the Civic Space in Guinea: Experience of ABLOGUI, by Alfa Diallo.

The Association of Bloggers in Guinea (ABLOGUI), is a federation of about 50 Guinean bloggers and web activists. Though their main objective is to inspire more young people in Guinea to become bloggers, they also aim to promote active citizenship and advocacy and to defend basic human rights.

ABLOGUI forms technical and financial partnerships. It also conducts campaigns on social and traditional media in response to certain situations in order to widen the scope and influence of the campaign.

With regards to civic space, repressive laws have been passed which include a ban on demonstrations in Guinea. The government has also refused the renewal of registration for certain organisations. Some journalists have also been imprisoned.

In response to this, some online SMs were formed. A case in point being the one formed in July 2018 (Forces Sociales de Guinée) against the increase in fuel prices, which mobilised citizens to come together for one of the biggest demonstrations in the country's history using the hashtag: #8000GNFCestBon. This demonstration showed that it was possible to unite citizens of different backgrounds to fight for a common cause. However, internal conflicts and mistrust undermined the movement.

When participants expressed misgivings about the credibility of bloggers during the question and answer session, Mr Diallo explained that blogging is hardly an easy task. It is not rewarding, and it requires a lot of research and dedication and thus the members of ABLOGUI take their work very seriously.

SESSION 6 Case Study 3

Ghana: The experience of ACTIVISTA Ghana in collaborating with TSJOs and activists by Deladem Xonu

Mr Deladem Xonu began this session with a brief history of Activista Ghana. He explained that it is a network of young people who are dedicated to advocating and campaigning for a just, equitable and sustainable world in which every person enjoys the right to a life of dignity, freedom from poverty and all forms of oppression. Through campaigns, capacity building and online youth mobilisation they have been able to influence public policy and demand for government accountability. The objectives of the group are:

- To develop effective platforms for taking action, sharing knowledge, promoting stories of change, guidance and coordinating for empowerment, solidarity actions and effective campaigns.
- Advance political influence of women and girls reduce women's unpaid care work and violence against women and girls.
- Promote access to quality public education for boys and girls which respects their rights and enhance capacity of the youth to drive development priorities.

According to Activista Ghana, the state of Ghana's civic space presents a mixture of failures and successes. Making reference to Ghana's narrowed civic space, Mr. Xonu gave examples of the length of time it took to pass the Right to Information law (RTI) and the attacks on certain activists and journalists in the country

Though Activista was set up by ActionAid¹ Ghana, it operates autonomously, and all its regional branches have enough capacity to handle issues in their jurisdiction autonomously. It has also provided support to the International Labour Organisation and the Women to Kilimanjaro Campaign. Some of their partners include Young Writers Club, Ghana Red Cross and many others. The ease in collaboration between stakeholders and partners could be largely attributed to Activista's willingness to compromise and the appreciation of the importance of collaboration. However, it is quite difficult to amass the numbers needed for marches and demonstrations as most members of Activista have full time careers and so have little time to commit fully.

¹ Activista is part of ActionAid's global youth network fighting poverty and inequalities at the local, national and global levels.

GROUP ACTIVITY

Analysis of all three case studies through field experiences on stakeholder collaboration

Below are the questions and responses of the participants for this exercise.

Question	Answer
1. What elements of collaboration did we identify?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct demand on duty-bearers • Shared interests among the different groups • Complementarity (Different capacities were brought on board to fill capacity gaps) • Visibility and recognition benefits (Collaboration amplified the voices of the coalitions and made them more visible) • Access to public information • Protection of defenders and activities. (TSJOs gave credibility to SMs and SAs and so protected them from persecution) • Pooling of efforts was a major advantage of collaboration • Data collection, protection and transmission was more reliable and up to date. This also meant that credible data was made accessible to SMs and SAs who may not have had access to it • Capacity Building of SAs and SMs to make them more efficient.
2. Were there any missed collaboration opportunities?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor planning (scheduling and organisation was more difficult in coalitions) • Self-imposed locational and operational limitations did not allow some TSJOs to open up to SMs and SAs • The coalitions should have used more of the traditional media to reach a wider audience to get the support of the people for their cause • Lack of internal and external cohesion (Differences in policies and in some cases cultural backgrounds created friction) • Problems with location (There were sometimes difficulty in choosing locations to meet and as headquarters).
3. In what area can CSOs collaborate with social movements/ activists in efforts to curb civic space restrictions?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public campaigns (These create awareness and bring SMs and SAs on board). • Advocacy/legislation (The coalitions can come together to advocate against laws that repress the civic space). • Citizen participation through mobilisation (This can be done through traditional and social media campaigns that enable engage and hold their leaders accountable) • Financial support established TSJOs can provide financial support to SMs and SAs in order to make them more sustainable • Capacity building (The different groups and individuals that make up the coalition can build and strengthen one another's capacities to promote efficiency and sustainability) • Mass appeal (Collaboration gives TSJO, SM and SAs a more amplified voice that attracts the mass appeal of the people who may in turn support their cause by participation in marches and demonstrations).



Participants at the Convening

DAY 3

Due to time constraints, the presentation of the Y'en a Marre movement was moved to Day 3.

SESSION 7 Case study 4

Senegal: Le mouvement Y'en a Marre by Aissatou Faye

Ms Faye began her presentation with a brief history of the Y'en a Marre Movement which in English means Enough is Enough. In 2011, A group of young activists made up of artists and rappers created the Y'en a Marre Movement as a response to the imposition of the son of then Senegalese president Macky Sall as the head of state affairs. The movement was also born out of frustration in the face of the poor socio-economic state of the country.

Through their advocacy and campaigns the movement was able to influence the election of the current president, Abdoulaye Wade. However, Ms. Faye stressed that the movement rejected any political appointments the president offered as a form of appreciation. It is a movement that aims to remain uncompromised by political influence so that they can fight for their cause objectively. It is for this reason that the movement is now able to protest the appointment of the president's brother as head of state affairs.

Though the government has actively tried to sabotage the reputation of the movement in order to foil collaboration attempts, the movement has collaborated with numerous TSJOs and individual activists to protest social injustices and unfair laws. According to Ms. Faye, the movement has also collaborated with various international organisations like OXFAM. She stressed the importance of collaborations for a movement like Y'en a Marre in terms of resource support, influence and the magnitude of their voice.

Still, Ms. Faye said collaboration has come with some challenges. Due to the fact that the movement has collaborated with other organisations with different mandates and agendas, people sometimes assume that they fight for the cause of the organisations and not the people. This sometimes makes it difficult to establish credibility and gain the support of the people.

She ended by advising other social movements to get legalised through registration if possible in order to increase their opportunities to collaborate with other organisations, to receive funding, to have more order and credibility that will contribute to their sustainability. The audience responded that this was a controversial and contested view among some social movements and their funders: that the only route to stronger alliance, funding

and credibility is to become like an NGO. In fact, funders are often criticised for forcing SMs to register when they fund them.

SESSION 8 Group work

The way forward: Identifying Actions, Taking Responsibility of the Process

In this session, participants were divided into groups to brainstorm on the way forward to foster collaboration between TSJOs, SMs and SAs.

Overcoming challenges

How can TSJOs, SMs and SAs respond to challenges that hinder effective collaboration?

Social Justice Organisation	Recommendations
Traditional Social Justice Organisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify and consider supporting the activities of social movements and activists as part of TSJOs' action planning.• Compromise with SMs and SAs on procedures• Be more flexible• Provide technical and capacity building support where requested by SMs and SAs• Use more creativity and innovation
Social movements and social activists	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Collaborate with experienced TSJOs on capacity building projects that could help social movement to increase their impact;• Capitalise on the diversity of competences of the social movement members.

Stakeholder mapping

This exercise was to help participants identify the other actors that can support efforts (including collaboration) to curb shrinking civic space and what they can do to foster effective collaborations between traditional social justice organisations, social movements and activists to secure civic space freedoms.

Aside from striving to collaborate with each other, civil society actors can collaborate with:

- Donors- the financial and human resource they provide gives sustainability to collaborations. They can make their terms of support more flexible in order to factor in SMs and SAs.
- Religious leaders- their influence and support in some contexts can give credibility to a social justice organisation or movement.
- Independent state institutions – these institutions like Ghana's Commission for Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) can fight for the rights of citizens without undue influence of the government.
- Law makers- they can enact pro-freedom laws, including justice and enabling environment legislation.
- Private sector – by providing resources and funding projects. The private sector is increasingly showing a willingness to champion and protect civic freedoms. Privately owned companies with strong ethics and values tied into the core business model, led by engaged leaders, are more likely to support civil society.
- Regional bodies and organisations like ECOWAS- should strongly improve accountability mechanisms to put governments on their toes and impose sanctions that mitigate governments excesses.
- Academics- who can conduct research on pertinent social issues.
- Professional associations- who can support pertinent causes that directly and indirectly affect their cause.
- Lawyers- who can provide representation and legal counselling to activists.
- Media- their provision of accurate and timely information keeps people informed on social justice issues and helps to publicise avenues for collaboration. The role of the media in changing the public narrative about human rights / social justice issues and organisations/movements has also been highlighted.

Concrete Actions

This was a group exercise meant to explore actions that could be taken by TSJOs, SMs and SAs to foster collaboration among them. Below is a summary of the findings:

- Develop a governance charter, code of operations document for formal agreement.
- Clearly spell and define out roles and responsibilities (structure activities).
- Create a virtual and physical platform for organisations.
- Harness resources and expertise.
- Organise periodic convenings and workshops among the different groups.
- Benefiting from social media use (campaigns, communication)

RECOMMENDATIONS

Next steps

Participants then brainstormed on the next steps to take in order to foster collaboration between TSJOs, SMs and SAs. The following is a summary of their ideas to keep this cause alive:

- Participants agreed to send WACSI and FGHR updates on how they've shared and are acting on the reflections and ideas generated in the convening in their own context;
- In the next convening, some TSJOs can participate to engage and challenge each other;
- They suggested that WACSI serve as a facilitating agency in West Africa to drive discussions around civic space;
- WACSI can take lead to engage ECOWAS, AU to engage around civic space issues;
- Build on existing platforms;
- Keep the respective civil society networks updated or informed;
- Create a virtual platform to share information;
- Have monthly discussions on a theme;
- Create hashtag on social media;
- Monthly reminders from WACSI which could be in the form of a newsletter; and
- Organise roundtables on civic space issues in participants' respective countries.

CLOSING REMARKS

The program concluded with an introduction of WACSI's e-directory platform, TechSoup Technology donation program and the Alternative Funding Models Guidebook for civil society organisations in Africa and some online courses to the participants. Mr Fomunjong then thanked the participants for their active involvement in the program and thanked FGHR for the continued support. The participants also expressed their gratitude to the funders and organisers of the program as well as the interpreters who facilitated communication.

For the next stage of this project, we would share key recommendations and information from this convening with

TSJOs to social movements and activists. It will enable social movements and activists to be informed on the views of TSJOs vis-à-vis a collaborative relationship with them. It will enable them to identify the potential for more collaborative approaches in working with social justice organisations.

Finally, we hope it will create an enabling environment for these stakeholders to take stock of their engagement approaches and how they have/have not involved other relevant actors in their struggles/campaigns, and the effects of such actions. This is to enable them to strategise on how to possibly adopt more inclusive approaches in their pursuit for social justice.

ANNEX 1 Programme Agenda

Strengthening Stakeholder Collaboration to Expand Civic Space in West Africa

Date: 18-20 September 2019

Venue: Ampomah Hotel, Accra-Ghana

DAY 1: 18 September				
TIME	SESSION	SESSION CONTENT		FACILITATOR
8: 30 – 9:00	Arrival & Registration of Participants			
9:00 – 10:00	Opening Ceremony			Charles Vandyck, WACSI
10:00 – 10:15	Group Picture			
10:15 – 10:30	TEA BREAK			
10:30 – 11:30	Session I	Civic space trends in West Africa		Charles Vandyck, WACSI
11:30 – 13:30	Session II: Presentation of research findings	Forging Stakeholder Collaboration for Effective. Social Activism in West Africa: Prospects, Perils and Enabling Factors		Researchers
13:30 – 14:30	LUNCH BREAK			
14: 30 – 16: 00	Session III	Field experiences on stakeholder collaboration (in working groups)		Jimm Chick, WACSI
DAY 2: 19 September				
8: 30 – 9:00	Arrival & Registration of Participants			
09:00 – 10:00	Reflections / Key issues emerging from Day 1			
10:00 – 11:15	Session IV – Case Study 1	Cameroon: Centre for Human Rights and Development	in Africa	Jimm Chick
11:15 – 11:45	TEA BREAK			
11:45 – 13:00	Session V – Case Study 2	Guinea: ABLOGUI	Mamadou Diallo, Ablogui	
13:00 – 14:00	LUNCH BREAK			
14:00 – 16:00	Session VI – Case Study 3	Ghana: The experience of ACTIVISTA, Ghana in collaborating with TSJOs and activists.		Maxwell Kojo Xonu, Activista

16:00 – 17:00	Interviews with researchers/ video recordings	Communications Team, WACSI	
DAY 3: 20 September			
8: 30 – 9:00	Arrival & Registration of Participants		
09:00 – 10:00	Senegal: Y'en a Marre	Aissatou Faye	
10:00 – 11: 00	Session VII:	Strategic Reflections	Aissatou Faye
11:00 – 11:15	TEA BREAK		
11:15 – 13:30	Session VIII	Moving forward Identifying Actions, Taking Responsibility of the Process.	Jimm Chick, WACSI
13:30 – 14:30	LUNCH BREAK		
14:30 – 15:30	CLOSING REMARKS		
15:30 – 16:00	Selected Interviews		

ANEX 2

List of participants

CONTACT PERSON	ORGANISATION	Country
Houeto Miguèle	Human Rights Priority (HRP)	Benin
Amana Pyabele	AGPEF	Togo
Diomande Dion Symphor	Club Union Africaine	Cote d'Ivoire
Diallo Mamadou	Association of Bloggers from Guinea (ABLOGUI)	Guinea
Aissatou Faye	Y'en A Marre	Senegal
Ekole Bazil Najembe	Center for Human Rights and Democracy in Africa (CHRNA)	Cameroon
Mariama Mamoudou Djibo	Le Réseau des Organisations pour la Transparence et l'Analyse Budgétaire (ROTAB)	Niger
Mekombe Thérèse	Association des Femmes Juristes du Tchad (AFJT)	Tchad
Nlate Danielle	REFAC (Réseau des Femmes Actives d'Afrique Centrale)	Cameroon
Mbaye Niang	CONGAD (Conseil des ONG d'Appui au Développement)	Senegal
Ouedraogo Roukiattou	SPONG	Burkina Faso
Fabakary B. Ceesay	Network of Human Rights Journalists, (NHRJ)	The Gambia
Hamady Samba	Initiative de Résurgence du mouvement Abolitionniste (IRA – Mauritanie)	Mauritania
Abu Brima	Network Movement for Justice and Development (NMJD - SL)	Sierra Leone
IBEH Chidinma Judith	Space for Change (S4C)	Nigeria
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